

Abstract

A motorized card reader module (10) having a throat portion (14) defining an entry/exit slot (16) for receiving cards (78) is described. The module (10) includes a sweeping mechanism (28) comprising one or more arms (62) coupled to a driving mechanism (64, 66). The arms (62) include a hook portion (68) for catching any obstruction present in the throat portion (14). When the driving mechanism (64,66) is energized the arms (62) sweep horizontally across the slot (16) defined by the throat portion (14). This enables the arms (62) to detect and/or remove any obstruction within the throat portion (14). A self-service terminal (80) for preventing fraud and a method of preventing fraud using the module (10) are also described.